



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Taggart II, et al.

Serial No.: 09/304,298

Filed: May 3, 1999

For: Removal of Salts in the Manu-  
facture of Phenolic Compound

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Group Art Unit: 1621

Examiner: Michael L. Shippen

Atty. Docket: SHELL-TH1118



RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION AFTER RCE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

This paper is filed in response to the office action mailed March 13, 2003.  
Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be amended as follows:

AMENDMENTS

168. (Amended) A process for manufacturing phenolic compounds comprising:
- separating acetone and phenol from a wholly or partially neutralized aralkyl hydroperoxide cleavage mass comprising salts of neutralization to produce a crude phenolic stream comprising said salts of neutralization;
  - separating said crude phenolic stream to produce a concentrated phenolic-rich stream and a crude phenol bottoms stream, said crude phenol bottoms stream comprising said salts of neutralization and a remainder of said phenolic compounds;
  - treating said crude phenol bottoms stream with a first quantity of aqueous material and with a second quantity of an organic diluent, said second quantity being effective to solubilize said remainder of said phenolic compounds, producing a mixture;
  - allowing said mixture to phase separate, recovering said phenolic compounds in an organic phase comprising said organic diluent.
205. (Amended) A process for manufacturing phenolic compounds comprising: